

Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs

2014 Regional Conferences

October 30, 2014 – Peru

Agenda

- 8:30 am **REGISTRATION**
- 9:00 am **Welcome**
- 9:15 am **OCRA Introduction**
Ryan Shrack, Northeast Community Liaison

Overview of agency mission and service structure.
- 9:30 am **Regional Cities**
Eric Doden, President, Indiana Economic Development Corporation
- 10:00 am **Stellar Communities**
Dr. JoAnna Mitchell-Brown, Senior Research Fellow, Housing & Community Development, Sagamore Institute,
Kathleen Weissenberger, State CDBG Director
Matt Crouch, Project Manager

Overview of the Stellar Communities program, including eligibility and requirements. Additional information from the Sagamore Institute regarding success of the program will also be shared.
- 10:30 am **Indiana Main Street – Economic Restructuring**
Shae Kmicikewycz, Program Manager

Learn more about the basic concept of Economic Restructuring within downtowns including information on projects underway in other communities, partners you should have around the table and more!
- 11:00 am **Indiana Shovel Ready Certification**
Matt Crouch, Project Manager

Overview of the program, eligibility and requirements as well as the upcoming online application. Updates on the process for previously certified sites.
- 11:30 am **Lunch**
- 12:00 pm **Keynote Address - Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann**
- 12:45 pm **Hometown Collaboration Initiative**
Sharon Canaday, Associate Director, Economic & Community Development, Ball State Building Better Communities,
Geoff Schomacker, Director of Project Development and Community Affairs

The launch of a new organizational model for communities to build their leadership pipeline, grow their economy and leverage their quality of place.

- 1:30 pm **Community Readiness Initiative**
Dick Heupel, Director Economic & Community Development, Ball State Building
Better Communities,
Sharon Canaday, Associate Director, Economic & Community Development,
Ball State Building Better Communities,
Geoff Schomacker, Director of Project Development and Community Affairs

The launch of an innovative community economic development assessment tool.
- 2:00 pm **Networking Break**
- 2:15 pm **Indiana Main Street - Event Planning 101**
Shae Kmicikewycz, Program Manager

Events can be a challenge in any community. Learn helpful tips to making your events more successful from volunteers to evaluation. This will be an interactive session, so come prepared to share what works in your community!
- 2:45 pm **Community Entrepreneurship Initiative**
Jacob Schpok, Executive Director, Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Consulting services and training for community economic development leaders, elected officials, and citizens interested in forging local initiatives to grow and retain entrepreneurs.
- 3:00 pm **Investing in Place:**

Community Enhancement and Economic Development
Kathleen Weissenberger, State CDBG Director
Darin Edwards, Underwriting and Closing Manager, Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority

The Community Enhancement and Economic Development (CEED) section 108 program provides communities with a source of loan financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities and other large-scale projects.

Place Based Investment Fund
Colette Griffin, Project Manager

The Place Based Investment Fund (PBIF) is a competitive grant program that funds efforts by Indiana communities to become even greater places to visit, live and work.

Downtown Enhancement Grant
Shae Kmicikewycz, Program Manager

The Downtown Enhancement Grant (DEG) program is designed to foster innovative approaches to activities, which support and promote community based planning, pre-development, and research initiatives.

Main Street Revitalization Program
Gerry White, Northwest Community Liaison

The Main Street Revitalization Program (MSRP) encourages communities with eligible populations to focus on long-term community development efforts.
- 4:00 pm **Adjourn**

